

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 11 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-7 have been amended. Claims 8-10 have been canceled. New claim 11 has been added. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

Response to Restriction:

The Examiner has required restriction between two set of distinct species as follows:

Set A: means for adjusting compression rod (2) as set forth in claim 3; and

Set B: means for adjusting length of traction elements (4) as set forth in claim 5.

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed January 17, 2008, Applicant hereby respectfully elects, without traverse from Set A, means for adjusting compression rod (2) as set forth in claim 3 using *a linear actuator unit*, as shown in currently amended claim 3. In addition, Applicant hereby respectfully elects, without traverse from Set B, means for adjusting length of traction elements (4) as set forth in claim 5 using *a linear actuator unit*, as shown in currently amended claim 5. Remaining features of dependent claims 3 and 5 have been canceled. Applicant specifically reserves the right to file a divisional or continuation application directed to the non-elected/canceled features of claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments made to the claims herein are neither being presented nor made in response to the citation of any prior art known to the Applicant or the Applicant's attorneys. These claim amendments are further not made for any reason related to any statutory requirements for patentability. These claim amendments are made solely to more completely claim that which the Applicant is entitled. Applicant's invention should only be considered limited by the claims as they now exist and the equivalents thereof. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments made herein.

Dated: February 14, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Shoaib A. Mithani/

Shoaib A. Mithani

Registration No.: 61,654

WINSTEAD PC

P.O. Box 50784

Dallas, Texas 75201

(214) 745-5400

Attorneys For Applicant